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Nightclub fire kills 233 in Brazil college town

SANTA MARIA, Brazil (AFP) - At least 233 people died early yesterday when a fire tore through a nightclub packed with university students in the southern Brazilian city of Santa Maria, police said. The death toll is expected to rise.

Shocked survivors de-

scribed a frantic rush to the exits as flames swept through the crowded club in the university town, with scores of young people getting trampled and passing out from smoke inhalation.

Continued on page 6

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Traditional honoring of "El Libertador" Gilberto Françoise (Betico) Croes on his national day

Aruba observed the first national holiday of the year on Friday, January 25, "Betico Day." It is a celebration of the birth date of Gilberto Françoise (Betico) Croes, a driving force and the ultimate negotiator of Aruban autonomy within the Dutch Kingdom, or "Status Aparte," a phrase he also coined.

It is a day filled with activities for all the family, with national museums and landmarks opening their doors for no fee and welcoming islanders and visitors to connect with local history and culture.

Continued on page 4



Its official: Carnival 59 now rules Aruba!

After nearly 60 years of Aruba's Carnival, the weeks of revelry continue to evolve and add new traditions. Just before the final weeks of parades, elections and parties take place, a quietly humorous but beloved ritual is conducted on a Sunday morning. Aruba's Prime Minister meets with the Prins and Panchos (Princes and Jesters) in all three age categories, to officially hand over "the keys to the island" and their official rule.

This year, for the first time, the ceremony was conducted in front of the government offices in San Nicolas, rather than Oranjestad, while the town prepared for their Children's Grand Parade.

Prime Minister Eman greeted officials of the Stichting Arubaanse Carnival, or SAC, the volunteer organization which administrates carnival events along with Prins and Panchos Infantil (Child) "Prins Gangnam," Zyqu E. E. Guerrero and Pancho: "Style," Jahmani J.J. Eidsen, Hubenil (Youth) Prins "BA Busca" Marcel Margin Kock and Pancho "Ba Haya" Rendell Emanuel Gross and Grandi (Adult) Prins "Bai Gaña," Jermaine Toppenberg and Pancho "Baca," Bryan Courtar

Continued on page 3



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Government focusing on Local Workmanship



At the end of November of last year, the government launched a special program designed to uncover local workmanship. There is, apparently, a great deal of talent in the fascinating world of workmanship which could contribute to the economy of many families on Aruba, according to Minister of Culture and Social Affairs, Michelle Hooyboer- Winklaar.

During a press conference, the public was privy to the numerous works there are, and a general appeal was made to all craftsmen to submit their work. The objective is to come up with a lot of products made in Aruba, which would receive the seal of Aruba as original patents.

Tourists always are on the lookout for typical items of countries and are interested in

locally produced items. The government has worked diligently on this program, putting in place all the necessary prerequisites to ensure that all locally produced products are of the highest quality which could receive the seal of "Made in Aruba."

In order to guarantee the quality of all workmanship, the government has instituted a commission. Alice van Romondt explained how this commission will function.

The commission is comprised of 5 local persons with experience and craftsmanship ability. Craftsmen are required to submit their work for evaluation by this commission. The commission is currently involved in identifying the different products submitted.

Continued on page 3

Visitors and islanders enjoy a “Taste of Betico Day” at Paseo Herencia



Paseo Marketing Mgr Candy Rasmijn with relief sculpture of Betico



The name of Palm Beach’s most unique shopping/entertainment center, Paseo Herencia, literally means “Historical Walk.” It has always been a policy of the mall to impart information about island history and culture, particularly on national holidays.

January 25, “Betico Day,” honoring Gilberto Francoise “Betico” Croes, is particularly an occasion for a special show, featuring the musical band named for “El Libertador,” Grupo Di Betico. It was originally comprised of the statesman, his sisters and brothers, and during his lifetime, would traditionally entertain at family gatherings.

The group has existed through three generations, still led by Betico’s brother

Opening the show was the Grupo di Baile Folklorico Santa Cruz, performing Aruba’s famed “Ribbon Dance,” a complex choreography deploying the colors of Aruba’s flag, turquoise, red, white and yellow. Grupo Di Betico followed with a rousing show for the packed amphitheater known as the Plaza Padu.

Franklin Kock provided some fascinating facts about Aruban history, its world famous athletes and performers, and some little-known factoids of island life. The delightful



Aruba’s famous Ribbon Dance

Tommy, who is the lead singer. Nephews and cousins have enlarged the group, and they are very popular, often engaged to perform on national days and other holidays.

The band was a natural headliner for the cultural evening hosted by Paseo Herencia on Friday evening, January 25.

evening finished with a flourish with a special holiday version of the nightly Waltzing Water, conducted to a medley of pieces by the co-composer of Aruba’s National Anthem, “Aruba Dushi Tera,” Juan Chabaya “Padu” Lampe.

Rosalie Klein



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Gov't ... Local Workmanship

Continued from page 2

They want to make a distinction in products to be sold in the malls and those to be sold at the hotels, without interfering with the commercial aspect of the products.

In the month of February, the commission will begin the tedious task of evaluating each item submitted to determine whether they qualify for the "Made in Aruba" seal. Products that do not qualify will be explained why. The workman, of course, may appeal the designation.

The government will also be offering workshops to help improve the skills of our local craftsmen to enhance their workmanship and produce even better crafts. Stan Dabian is the person in charge of receiving all the works of art. Those who have not submitted their products as yet can still do so.

There is multitude of craftsmen on the island producing a host of incredibly fantastic works of art and tremendously wonderful pieces of crafts of all types and sizes.

Its official: Carnival 59 now rules Aruba!

Continued from page 1



Turning over the new laws

Prins Bai Gaña and Pancho Baca had the honor of reading the Proclamation of Carnival Law: 15 points of order which will rule the land through Ash Wednesday, February 12, and the last night of Carnival 59. The new rules very much kept in mind the current administration's policies of a "Green Aruba" and also reducing the problem of obesity among the population, particularly the staff of SAC.

Prime Minister Eman handed over the symbols of rule to the three groups of Prins & Pancho, the final signal the revelry now rules Aruba.

Rosalie Klein





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Traditional honoring of “El Liberatador” Gilberto Françoise (Betico) Croes on his national day

Continued from page 1



Arrival of the Governor and wife, and Adjutant of Dutch Marines



Entrance of Arubamil Drum and Fife Corps



Address by PM Eman



President and Secretary of Parliament Paul Croes and Jacqueline Bastien



Prime Minister and Nicole Hoevertz presenting a wreath on behalf of Aruban government



Evelyn Wever – Croes and Maikito Croes on behalf of Foundation Betico Croes



Gilberto Croes, Mario Croes, Lara Croes and Thiara Croes on behalf of family

The day culminates in an official honoring in the shadow of the statue of “El Liberatador” in the Plaza Betico Croes, located behind the Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad. Here, island dignitaries, including His Excellency, Governor Fredis Refunjol, the Queen’s appointed representative on Aruba, and Prime Minister Mike Eman participated in the solemn tribute to his memory.

Four floral wreaths were placed at the base of the statue. The first on behalf of the Parliament of Aruba, by Parliamentary President Paul Croes and Secretary Jacqueline Bastien; next by Prime Minister Eman and Secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers, Nicole Hoevertz, representing the Aruban government. These were followed by a wreath from the family of Betico Croes, placed by his grandchildren Gilberto (Beto), Mario, Lara Croes and Thiara Croes – Fransesca. The final wreath was placed by Makito and Evelyn Wever-Croes on behalf of the Betico Croes Foundation.

Prime Minister Eman made his traditional address, bringing to mind for the gathering the love of country and sacrifice of G.F. Betico Croes, an example to all islanders that

transcends politics. He urged his countrymen to embrace the legacy of “Betico” and his fellow statesmen, who campaigned and fought over the negotiation tables for Aruba’s independence from the other Antillean islands, thus laying the foundation for its economic self-direction and prosperity.

Musical renditions of traditional island songs by Grupo Rondalla and an honor guard of the ArubaMil Drum and Fife Corps punctuated the ceremony, which segued into a Cultural Evening and street fair.

Folkloric music and dance was the program organized by the Ministry of Culture, and Minister of Social & Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hoooyboer-Winklaar officially welcomed all to the event.

Gilberto Françoise “Betico” Croes was born in 1938 and died in November of 1986. On the eve of Aruba officially being independent, December 31, 1985, he was gravely injured in a car accident, slipping into a coma for eleven months, until his death. He never saw the actualization of “Status Aparte,” to which he had dedicated most of his adult life.

Rosalie Klein

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Jeffrey Kelly is Aruba's 43rd Tumba King



**Second place and Best Costume
Richard Tattoo Quant**

Saturday evening January 26 at the Aruba Entertainment Center, judges selected Aruba's 43rd Tumba King, Jeffrey Kelly, performing his own song "Nos Tey pa Keda" – "We're here to stay," backed by Robert Jeandor and his Solo Banda Show.

Aruba's final musical contest of carnival 59 had 16 performers competing for the crown. In second place was Richard "Tattoo" Quant, with "Corografía Di Unidad" backed by his Zeta Banda. Both Quant and his band won the trophy for best individual costume and best band uniforms.

Third place went to Anoushka Odor with "Curazon ta Bati," or "Battered Heart" written by Robert Maduro and Robert Jeandor arranging and providing the band.

Fourth place was won by Eugene Albertsz performing "Blankia Djente cu ne" – "White Tooth with them," by Casin Gil and Chicho Kock singing his own composition "Traha Dam Spera Awa" – "Build a Dam & Wait for Water," with D'Licious Band, took fifth place.

Rosalie Klein



**43rd Tumba King
Jeffrey Kelly**



Fourth Place Eugene Albertsz



Third place Anoushka Odor



Fifth Place Chicho Kock.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Colombia warns FARC against kidnapping

BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombia yesterday warned FARC rebels that fresh kidnappings could undermine peace talks, after two policemen were seized in an attack blamed on the leftist guerrillas.

"The practice of kidnapping cannot continue, especially when representatives of the FARC guerrilla group are in peace talks," Vice President Angelino Garzon said, demanding that the militants keep the police officers alive.

Garzon has temporarily assumed the top post while President Juan Manuel Santos is in Santiago for a summit of European and Latin American leaders.

The two police officers were abducted in southwestern Colombia on Friday, six days after the rebels ended a two-month unilateral ceasefire declared at the outset of the talks.

Regional police commander Nelson Ramirez said Saturday that the FARC was

behind the seizure of the two officers, who were working on investigations in the towns of Pradera and Palmira.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) was set up in 1964 as an agrarian movement determined to redistribute land to the poor and has since become Latin America's longest-running insurgency.

For decades, the FARC has financed its insurgency through taxation of the illegal drug trade, kidnappings and extortion. But in February 2012, the group renounced the practice of kidnapping for ransom, and since November has been in talks with the government aimed at ending their long-running conflict.

The government estimates that 600,000 people have been killed by armed groups and the security forces during the conflict, and some 3.7 million Colombians have been displaced.



Photo above depicts President Obama at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., yesterday. Obama yesterday vowed to prevent genocide, as the world marked Holocaust Remembrance Day on the anniversary of the 1945 liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. "We honor the memories of the six million Jews and millions of other innocent victims whose lives were tragically taken during the Holocaust over sixty years ago," he said in a statement.

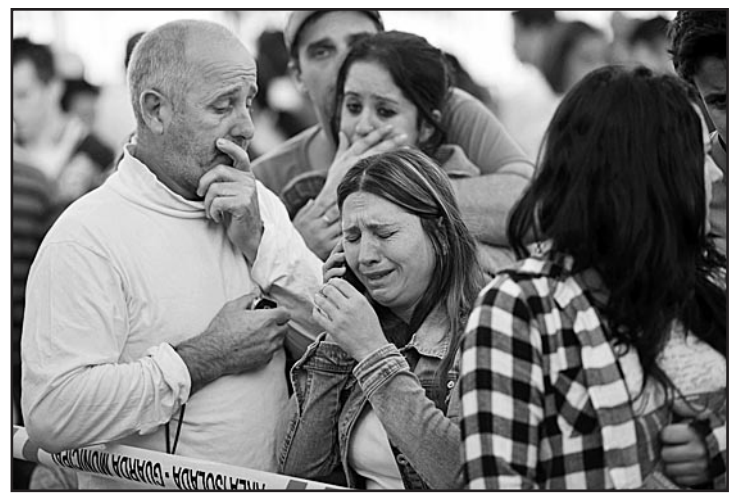
Nightclub fire kills 232 in Brazil....

Continued from page 1

Another 131 people were injured, and the death toll from the inferno had climbed rapidly as firefighters pulled bodies from the charred remains of the "Kiss" club, believed to have been packed with hundreds of revelers.

The tragedy appeared to be the deadliest such blaze in more than a decade, since a fire at a shopping center and discotheque in the central Chinese city of Luoyang killed more than 300 people in 2000.

Reports said the fire broke out after 2:00 am when the nightclub was hosting a uni-



Weeping relatives of the fire victims.



versity party featuring a rock band using pyrotechnics, but authorities have yet to offer an official explanation.

Survivor Michelle Pereira said the blaze broke out when a band member lifted a firework into the air, setting the ceiling on fire. The flames quickly engulfed the entire room.

"Everyone was pushing and shoving... The fire started out small, but in a matter of seconds it exploded," Tayne Vendruscolo, another survivor, told reporters. "Those who were close to the stage could not get out."

Bortolotto Mattheus, a young dentist, said metal barriers set up at the entrances to organize lines had blocked the exits.

The discotheque's fire permit had expired in August 2011, the local press reported, citing Moses Fuchs da Silva,

head of the state fire department.

Santa Maria fire chief Guido de Melo said the fire caused widespread panic, and that many revelers were trampled or died from smoke in-

halation.

Military police commander Rois Tavares confirmed the new toll of dead and injured, after officials had earlier put the death toll higher, at 245 people. He said the dead included 120 men and 112 women, most of whom had died of asphyxiation, and that all bodies had been removed from the wreckage.

The town is home to the Federal University of Santa Maria.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff cut short a visit to Chile, where she was attending a European and Latin American summit, to head to Santa Maria and oversee the response to the tragedy.



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International News

Police empty Venezuela riot prison after 61 killed



BARQUISIMETO (AFP) - Security forces on Sunday regained full control over a prison in northwestern Venezuela and evacuated inmates after a riot left 61 dead and twice as many wounded, officials said.

Prisons Minister Iris Varela said the final prisoners left quietly "without any resistance," posting to the social network Tweet a photo of several inmates with military officials.

The minister had admitted to reporters Saturday that the government "was not in control of all of the area of the Uribana penitentiary" in Lara state, a day after clashes erupted between prison gangs and guards.

She said the rioters and other inmates were being moved to other prisons around the country.

Meanwhile, relatives of inmates missing after the deadly violence were desperately seeking news of their loved ones.

Most of the 61 killed at the Uribana facility on Friday were shot by assault weapons. Antonio Maria Pineda Hospital director Ruy Medina said in an updated toll that another 120 people were wounded.

The toll was expected to climb as more information emerged about the battle to recover control of the penitentiary. Officials said it was

"very probable" that the final results of the operation would be announced Sunday or Monday.

National Guard troops earlier surrounded the Uribana prison as inmates in bloody clothes were taken out of the building and as distraught relatives waited for news behind the barriers.

Dozens more lined up waiting for death certificates.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro, just back in the country after visiting ailing President Hugo Chavez in Cuba, called the riot "regrettable" and "tragic," and said an investigation had been launched.

The Uribana prison is believed to hold about 2,500 inmates.

Venezuela is notorious for the poor state of its prisons, which suffer from some of the most staggeringly high levels of overcrowding in Latin America.

Originally built to house 14,000 inmates, the country's prisons now hold almost 50,000 people, often with low sanitary standards and high levels of violence.

In August 2012, at least 25 people were killed and 43 wounded during a clash between rival gangs in Yare I prison near Caracas. In June 2011, dozens died in a riot that erupted at El Rodeo prison.

European, Latin American leaders close trade summit

SANTIAGO (AFP) - European and Latin American leaders wrapped up a two-day summit here Sunday, pledging to reinvigorate their "strategic partnership" for expanded free trade while shunning protectionism.

But the high-profile meeting attended by some 60 countries from both continents was overshadowed by a nightclub fire in Brazil and forced President Dilma Rousseff to cut short her visit.

Hours later, the summit of the 27-member European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) closed, with participants observing a moment of silence for the victims of the Brazilian fire.

"Our discussions have given new energy and momentum to our strategic partnership," European Council President Herman van Rompuy said in his closing remarks.

Today, the 33 CELAC leaders will hold their own summit here, at which Cuba will take over the chairmanship from Chile for one year.

They plan to discuss how to overcome ideological and economic differences to foster greater regional integration.



Assad's chances of survival 'shrinking by the day': Medvedev

MOSCOW (AFP) - President Bashar al-Assad's chances of political survival are shrinking by the day, Russian Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev charged on Sunday, accusing the embattled Syrian leader of making a possibly fatal error in delaying reforms.

"He should have acted much more quickly and reached out to the peaceful opposition which was ready to sit at the negotiating table with him," Russian news agencies quoted Medvedev as saying.

"It's a grave error on his part, perhaps fatal," he said in an unusually harsh statement about Assad by Syria's traditional ally Moscow.

He reiterated Russia's position that only the Syrian people can decide the fate of Assad, whose departure the West has long called for in the face of the near two-year long conflict in Syria.

"I repeat once again: It is for the Syrian people to decide. Not Russia or the United States or any other country."

Moscow has long opposed any foreign intervention in the brutal conflict that the United Nations says has killed at least 60,000 people since March 2011, and along with China has blocked UN resolutions aimed

at resolving the crisis.

Nevertheless, Russia has tried on several occasions to dissuade Assad from pursuing the conflict, Medvedev said.

When asked if Russia had an interest in removing Assad to preserve its own borders from trouble, Medvedev replied: "We never said that our goal was to preserve the current political regime, or making sure that President Assad stays in power."

Russia was not "an exclusive ally of Syria or President Assad," he said.

"We had good relations with his father and him, but he had much closer allies among the European states."

Now, he said, both the government and the opposition had a responsibility to instigate dialogue to end the war.

As Syria's only powerful ally, Russia has used its veto at the UN Security Council to block resolutions demanding that Assad step down and instead consistently pushed for reconciliation.

Syria's deputy prime minister Qadri Jamil told Russian radio on Saturday that Syria was still receiving weapons from Russia under contracts signed long ago.



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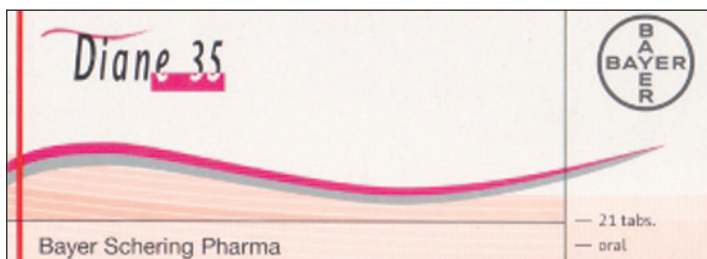


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Health

French health body probes contraceptive linked to deaths



PARIS (AFP) - French health regulator ANSM has launched a probe into the drug Diane-35, used to treat acne and also as a contraceptive, after linking it to four deaths over the past 25 years.

Produced by the German drugmaker Bayer, Diane-35 is authorised in 135 countries and sold in 116. In 2012, about 315,000 women in France used the drug, ANSM said in a statement Sunday.

Four deaths due to thrombosis were linked to the use of Diane-35, ANSM said, promising to release a full report on the drug and its risks next week.

Three other deaths reported by French newspaper Le Figaro on its website as connected to the drug were linked to existing health conditions, the regulator confirmed.

Diane-35, also sold as Dianette in some countries, is a hormone tablet that treats certain types of acne for women and is also used as a contraceptive.

A database of information from French doctors shows 125 cases of thrombosis related to Diane-35 or other forms of the drug since 1987, when the drug was first released onto the market.

France announced last year that so-called third generation birth-control pills -- newer pills

that contain variants of the hormone progestin -- will no longer be reimbursed by the social security system from March.

Earlier this month, ANSM launched a probe into the use of newer contraceptive pills on the market over fears of blood clots after a woman sued Bayer over an alleged clot caused by her pill.

One French lawyer told French media on Sunday that around 100 women had contacted him, intending to sue both Bayer and ANSM for not raising the alarm sooner.



WASHINGTON, Federal drug safety advisers (FDA) recommended new restrictions on a type of widely used narcotic painkiller, amid concern that the drug is fueling a surge in addiction and overdose deaths. The FDA recommend that products containing hydrocodone—a category that includes Vicodin—should be reclassified as Schedule II controlled substances, along with other narcotic painkillers such as oxycodone. Hydrocodone products are currently in Schedule III.

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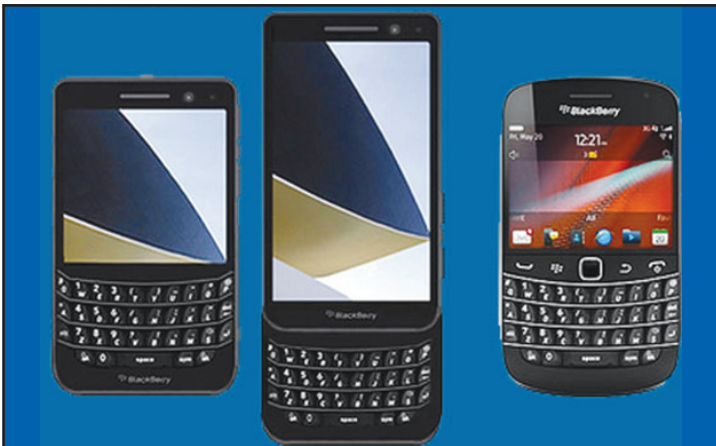
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Sci-Tech

RIM seeks to regain glory with BlackBerry 10 launch



NEW YORK (AFP) - BlackBerry maker Research In Motion begins its comeback bid Wednesday with a new platform launch in a make-or-break move for a firm that is rapidly sinking in the smartphone market it once dominated.

The Canada-based company unveils its BlackBerry 10 operating system and handsets in what some see as its last, best chance to remain a major player in an already competitive sector that is nevertheless attracting new entrants.

RIM boomed as the maker of "crackberries," a nickname stemming from the addiction the phones engendered, but it risks becoming a footnote in a market led by Apple's iPhone and rivals who use Google's Android operating system.

RIM, whose stock is at about one-eighth of its valuation in 2008, said it plans to "significantly" increase its marketing budget for the BlackBerry 10 launch, and there will be events in New York and five other global cities.

The company website home page depicts a sleek black device against a black background, alongside the words:

"The BlackBerry Experience. Re-designed. Re-engineered. Re-invented."

RIM is touting the system as a big change in smartphone technology.

More than 150 carriers worldwide have been testing the new platform, and RIM has given more than 8,000 prototypes to application developers.

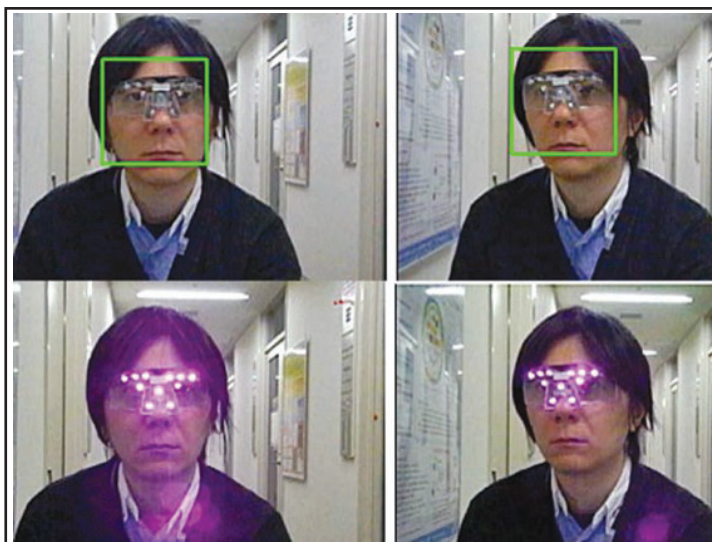
BlackBerry 10 devices will be offered in an all-touchscreen version as well as in a model that keeps a physical keyboard.

RIM says the system will break new ground by creating a user space that allows customers to flip between applications seamlessly and without first passing through a home page, to boost efficiency and multitasking.

This feature has caused real "excitement" as RIM has met with carriers around the world, RIM chief executive Thorsten Heins told analysts on a December earnings conference call.

Another key asset of BlackBerry 10 is what RIM dubbed the "BlackBerry balance," a system that allows users to separate professional communications and applications from music, photographs and other personal items.

Goggles fool face-recognition cameras: Japan maker



TOKYO (AFP) - A "privacy visor" that uses infra-red light to interfere with facial recognition technology has been developed in Japan for people worried about being spotted by computers.

The goggles are useful for anyone who wants to avoid

their identity being detected by hidden cameras, the inventors say.

"Measures for preventing the invasion of privacy caused by photographs taken in secret... are now required," said Isao Echizen of Tokyo's National Institute of Informatics.

The goggles, which are made of clear plastic, have lines of lights that emit near infra-red rays. Echizen says this is enough to throw software off the scent, rendering a face invisible to a computer.

However, the large plastic structures, complete with glowing lights and a sizeable power pack, may make the wearer somewhat conspicuous to the naked eye.

But, says Echizen, he believes they are an improvement on previous attempts at privacy shields -- or the less innovative sunglasses and baseball hat approach -- that created a barrier between people by obscuring their faces.

Last year, the European Union ordered Facebook to remove a facial recognition service after complaints from users about data protection.



At your work-place:

- Conserve your computer energy by Investing in an energy-saving computer, monitor and printer.
- Switch to energy-saving settings by turning off Monitor/display sleep: after 15 minutes or less, also turn off hard drives/hard disk sleep: 15 minutes or less; System standby/sleep: After 30 minutes or less.
- Turn off your computer whenever you're not using it, especially when leaving work. And note that it isn't true that turning your computer on and off will wear it out.
- Reduce printer use.

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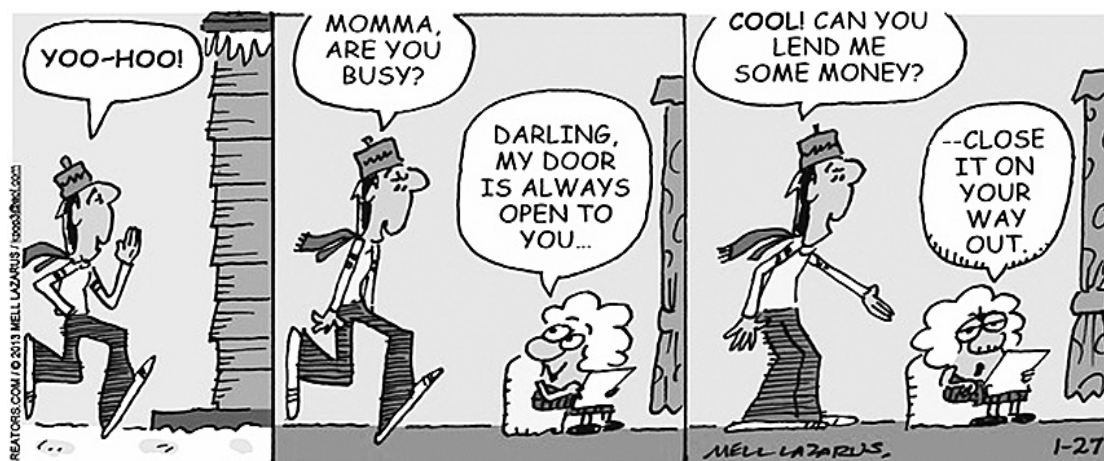
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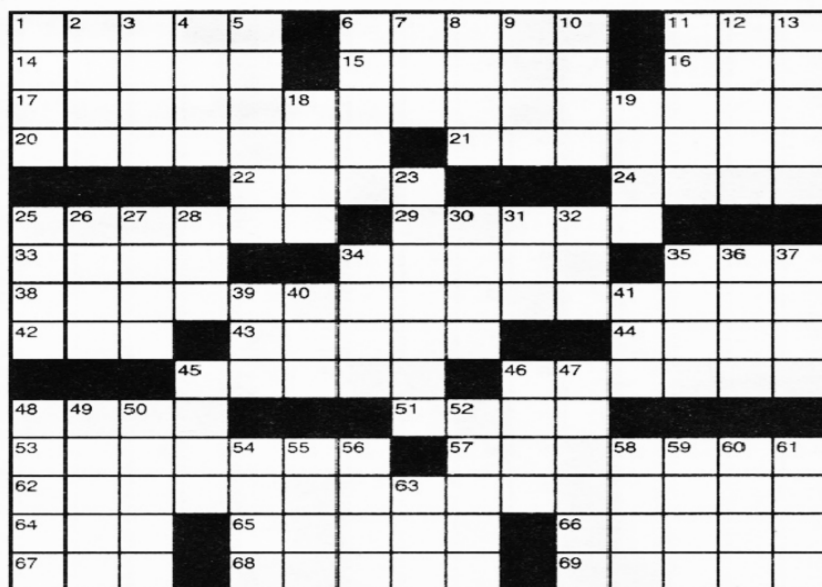
1. Chemical compound
6. Iraq port
11. Chubby
14. Saturday assignment
15. Inventor Howe
16. Feel bad about
17. Mae West's trademark
20. Act of twisting
21. Rome's language
22. State of mind
24. ___-bitsy
25. Announcer John
29. Morning turnoff
33. Tan, to a designer
34. Sporting milieu
35. Youth gp.
38. Time to filibuster
42. Suture
43. Unevenly notched
44. Ounce or inch
45. Actress Reed
46. Monastery heads
48. Popeye's greeting
51. Korean river
53. Kind of rummy
57. Rub the right way?
62. Day length
64. River to the Volga
65. Theater backdrop
66. "Rocket Man" man John
67. Salt, in St. Tropez
68. Gallows knot
69. Like a caftan

DOWN

1. Netherlands commune
2. ___-fly pie
3. Take the show on the road
4. Misplays
5. Ruling body
6. Game of chance
7. Pacino and D'Amato
8. Emphatic Spanish assent
9. Huck Finn's transport
10. Bhutan's locale
11. Miranda's millinery
12. Halos
13. Minute
18. Bird with a haunting cry
19. Lamp

23. Consider probable
25. Citi Field team
26. Pain
27. Dragged
28. Payable now
30. Smooth, in phonetics
31. Hill insect
32. Pep squad's word
34. Name of three English rivers
35. U2 lead singer
36. Clubs or diamonds
37. They might be fine
39. Manager Durocher
40. White-tailed bird
41. Focal point
45. Cannon of

- "Deathtrap"
46. Of a wing
47. Wheat measure
48. Short plays in the Southwest U.S.
49. Ethan of "Hamlet"
50. Ryan or Tatum
52. Regale
54. Kenton of jazz
55. Novice
56. Popular '60s hair style
58. Diva's delight
59. Jalopy
60. Silk fabric
61. Feudal figure
63. New World alliance: abbr.

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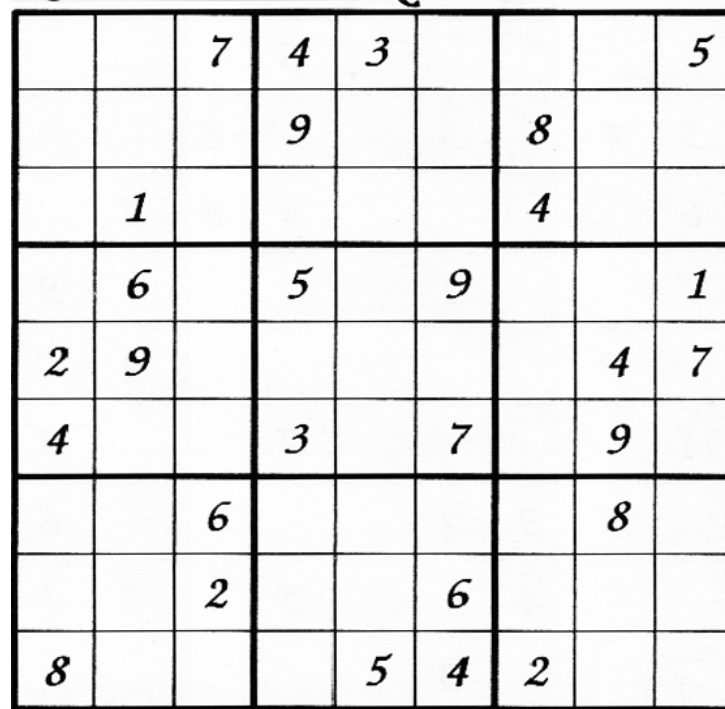
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4	5	1	9	6	8	2	7	3
6	8	1	9	2	7	4	5	3
2	4	5	1	8	9	6	7	3
1	2	9	6	7	4	5	3	8
3	6	8	9	2	7	4	5	1
9	2	8	5	1	6	7	4	3
5	1	6	2	7	4	8	9	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

FINANCE

Anger mounts over corruption in recession-hit Spain



Spain for sale

MADRID (AFP) - Anger over a long list of corruption scandals implicating bankers, politicians and even members of the royal family is on the rise in recession-hit Spain, putting the spotlight on the failure of the country's democracy to tackle the issue.

At demonstrations against government austerity measures, chants against alleged shady deals by Spain's elite are as common as those venting anger at tax hikes and spending cuts to social services and public workers' pay.

Around 200-300 elected officials out of more than 50,000 in the country are currently implicated in corruption cases in regions governed both by both the left and the right, said the head of the Spanish branch of anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International, Jesus Lizcano.

"While small, it is a significant percentage and is a bit alarming and calls for an urgent response on the part of political parties," he said.

With taxpayers reeling under austerity measures and a record unemployment rate of 26 percent, many feel that "the political class is not able to resolve the economic crisis, that it is useless, and that they protect each other", said University of Santiago de Compostela political science professor Anton Losada.

The latest corruption scandal to make headlines involves Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's centre-right Popular Party, whose popularity has plunged since it won a November 2011 election in a landslide.

Daily newspaper El Mundo reported on January 18 that former Popular Party treasurer Luis Barcenas distributed envelopes containing thousands of euros to party officials on top of their declared salaries.

It said the money came from commissions collected from construction firms, insurance companies and anonymous donors.

Top Popular Party officials have strongly denied any involvement in the affair and have kept their distance from Barcenas, who reportedly had up to 22 million euros (\$29 million) in Swiss bank accounts until 2009.

Corruption scandals have even hurt the popularity of King Juan Carlos after one implicated a member of his family.

His son-in-law Inaki Urdangarin was accused last year of embezzling public money paid by regional governments to a charitable organisation based in Mallorca which he chaired from 2004 to 2006.

Three in four Spaniards think political corruption is rising in the country and that politicians get better treatment in the courts than regular citizens, according to a poll published in conservative newspaper ABC on January 20.

Popular anger was fuelled this month when Spanish telecom giant Telefonica hired Rodrigo Rato, a former head of the International Monetary Fund, as an advisor just weeks after he appeared in court in a fraud case involving bailout-out bank Bankia, which he once headed.

Lizcano has little faith that the government will follow through on its vow to step up the fight against corruption.

Iraq inks oil exploration deal with Kuwait Energy

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraqi energy officials on Sunday signed an oil exploration deal with a Kuwait-led group, finalising a deal that was altered to expel a Turkish firm amid worsening ties with Ankara.

A contract was inked with Kuwait Energy and Dragon Oil of the United Arab Emirates to explore a 900-square-kilometre (350-square-mile) block thought to contain oil in south Iraq, near the country's border with Iran.

The contract was signed by Abdul Mehdi al-Amidi, the Iraqi oil ministry's head of contracts and licensing, a representative of the state-owned South Oil Company, Hussein al-Mosawiy of Kuwait Energy and Mark Sawyer of Dragon Oil, according to an AFP journalist present.

Kuwait Energy has a 70 percent stake in the project, with Dragon Oil holding the remainder. The companies have agreed to be paid a service fee of \$6.24 per barrel of oil equivalent eventually extracted.

It is one of several agreements between Baghdad and foreign energy firms to boost oil output and explore for new deposits of energy as Iraq looks to cement its role as a key global supplier.

The original consortium that won the contract had included Turkey's TPAO, but officials announced in November that the Turkish firm would be expelled due to "non-technical issues", one of several signs of worsening ties between Baghdad and Ankara.

The two countries have been at odds over the Syrian conflict and Iraq has publicly urged Turkey to hand over fugitive Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi, who has been sentenced to death in Baghdad on charges of running a death squad.

Iraq has proven reserves of 143.1 billion barrels of oil and 3.2 trillion cubic metres (111.9 trillion cubic feet) of gas, both of which are among the largest in the world.

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Vietnam signs \$9-billion oil refinery deal

HANOI (AFP) - Vietnam on Sunday inked a deal with firms from Japan and Kuwait to build an oil refinery complex worth nearly \$9 billion as part of efforts to meet its growing energy needs.

The Nghi Son refinery, which is due to start operating by 2017 in Thanh Hoa province, about 200 kilometres (125 miles) south of Hanoi, will turn Kuwaiti oil into petrol and other petroleum products.

It will be able to process 10 million tonnes of crude oil a year, the government said.

State-owned PetroVietnam will own a 25.1-percent stake in the joint venture while Japan's Idemitsu Kosan and Kuwait Petroleum International will each hold 35.1 percent. Mitsui Chemicals of Japan will own the remaining 4.7 percent.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung hailed the project as "very important" for the communist

country's economic and social development, according to a government statement.

Vietnam has offshore oil reserves but still spends several billion dollars each year to import petroleum products to feed its growing economy.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the Nghi Son refinery was held in May 2008 but the project has suffered a number of delays.

It is still unclear when construction will start, an official from PetroVietnam told AFP, asking not to be named.

The country's first refinery Dung Quat -- which cost around \$2.5 billion and has a capacity of 6.5 million tonnes of crude a year -- opened in central Vietnam in 2009 after lengthy delays.

PetroVietnam has said that it hopes the two refineries would satisfy 65 percent of the nation's oil and gas needs. It is also preparing for a third refinery project in southern Ba Ria-Vung Tau province.

India expected to cut rates for first time in nine months

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India's central bank is expected to cut interest rates this week for the first time in nine months in response to the government's recent economic reform spree and slowing inflation, economists say.

With inflation at a three-year low and a flurry of new measures to ease investment rules, now is seen as the right time for the bank to focus on pulling the economy out of its worst growth slump in a decade.

Policymakers are "clearly teed up for rate cuts," banking on a further easing of inflation in coming quarters, lower government borrowing and more pro-market reforms, HSBC economist Leif Eskesen said.

However, those hoping the Reserve Bank of India will announce a big cut following its policy-setting meeting on Tuesday are likely to be disappointed.

Any reduction would be welcomed by Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh's scandal-scarred Congress party government, which is anxious to revive growth before facing voters in general elections due in the first half of next year.

Indian shares have been nosing higher to trade at around two-year highs in the past week on hopes of lower rates.

Countries such as China, South Korea and Brazil have all cut rates to try to shield their economies from the spillover of the eurozone debt crisis.

But India's central bank -- which last cut rates in April after an aggressive multi-year rate-hiking spree -- has resisted the clamour from business leaders and politicians for lower borrowing costs to spur the economy.

Growth fell to 5.3 percent in the July-September quarter -- far below the near double-digit pace India set before the onset of the global financial crisis -- while industrial output shrank by 0.1 percent in November from a year ago.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

N	O	B	L	E		B	R	I	C		S	E	T	H			
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Apple's Wozniak questions accuracy as Jobs film opens

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak questioned the accuracy of a long-awaited film about Steve Jobs as the movie opened with a red carpet premiere Friday, while its makers stressed it was not a documentary.

Wozniak said the movie "jOBS" -- which opened at the Sundance Film Festival -- erred in its depiction of the characters as well as the relationships between them -- especially the one between him and computer icon Jobs.

"We never had such interaction and roles," Wozniak, who quit Apple in 1987 after 12 years, told the tech blog Gizmodo, after a clip from the movie was posted online ahead of the evening premier at the Sundance Film Festival.

"I'm not even sure what it's getting at," he said, adding that the "personalities are very wrong -- although mine is closer."

"The ideas of computers affecting society did not come from Jobs. They inspired me and were widely spoken at the Homebrew Computer Club," he said, referring to a hobby group to which they belonged.

The film, one of two about the Apple founder who died in 2011, opens in the United States in April. The second, which has no release date yet, is based on the biography pub-

lished by Walter Isaacson shortly after his death.

Directed by Joshua Michael Stern and with "Two and a Half Men" star Ashton Kutcher in the title role, "jOBS" tells the story of his ascension from college dropout to one of the most revered creative entrepreneurs of the 20th century.

"Steve came back from Oregon and came to a club meeting and didn't start talking about this great social impact," said Wozniak, referring to the period in the 1970s before Silicon Valley took off.

"His idea was to make a \$20 PC board and sell it for \$40 to help people at the club build the computer I'd given away. Steve came from selling surplus parts at HalTed -- he always saw a way to make a quick buck off my designs," said the famously geek-casual-looking Wozniak.

Palestinians gather state symbols and budget blues



RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories (AFP) - In the wake of a UN status upgrade last year, the Palestinians are busy printing State of Palestine letterheads and stamps, but they have never been less able to pay their bills.

Last November 29, Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas smiled broadly as the UN General Assembly took the historic vote that upgraded the Palestinians to non-member observer state, but the move has had costly consequences.

It was opposed by both the United States and Israel, with the latter opting to suspend its monthly transfers of tax and tariff revenue collected for the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the wake of the decision.

That has plunged the PA's

finances -- shaky at the best of times -- into chaos, forcing prime minister Salam Fayyad to beg Arab nations to make up the shortfall by activating a "safety net" worth \$100 million a month.

The money was intended to ensure the PA could continue to pay its thousands of employees' salaries, which make up a large part of the \$240 million a month the government needs to stay on top of its obligations.

But the promised money has not been forthcoming. Last week, Saudi Arabia announced it would chip in \$100 million (75 million euros) in a one-time donation, but other Arab countries have not come forward.

The situation has created tension on the ground. PA employees are still owed half

their November salaries and all of their December pay.

On January 13, the Arab League announced it would dispatch a delegation headed by its secretary general Nabil al-Arabi and accompanied by Fayyad to try to drum up more of the promised "safety net" from Arab donors.

"When the Palestine Liberation Organisation announced that it would go ahead with seeking observer state status, the battle intensified with the United States and Arab donor aid to the PA declined," political analyst Abdelmajid Suleim said.

"The only explanation for the financial crisis is that the Palestinian people and its leaders are paying the price for disobedience to Washington," he added.

Economist Nasser Abdel Karim lays some of the blame on the Palestinian leadership, pointing out that financial sanctions from Israel and Washington had been expected after the UN bid.

"The Palestinian government expected economic difficulties due to the decision to go to the UN, but it did nothing to prepare," he told AFP.

Despite the budgetary blues, Abbas this month gave orders for work to begin on

new passports, ID cards and driving licences reading "State of Palestine."

Deputy interior minister Hassan Alawi said that there were practical barriers to putting such orders into practice.

"We're still under occupation," he said. "We have the ability to deliver a Palestinian passport, but the Israeli side will not accept their use."

The PA is also taking the battle to its foreign representations, with foreign minister Riad al-Malki telling AFP that all official correspondence will now carry a "State of Palestine" letterhead.

And telecommunications minister Safaa Nasreddine announced the launching of the first "State of Palestine" stamp, which will be distributed to Palestinian embassies and representative offices.

In a statement, Nasreddine predicted "a long battle with the Israeli side to translate into reality Palestine's upgrade to the rank of state at the UN."

The first State of Palestine stamps will be printed in Bahrain, but similar ones for local use are not expected in the short term, the minister said.

"Israeli permission is unfortunately necessary, before and after their printing," she said.

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Excellent dining, charming ambiance and a breathtaking view found only at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco



Stunning sunset



-- Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California

Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable. La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the

restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view, recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.



Osso Buco with Risotto

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if

you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. Reservations can be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-latratto-ria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with

real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to

countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and

appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two



will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50%

of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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SPORT

Football: Messi hits four and breaks another record

MADRID (AFP) - Lionel Messi became the first player to score in eleven consecutive La Liga matches on Sunday when he hit four as leaders Barcelona eased past a ten-man Osasuna with a 5-1 victory.

Pedro Rodriguez got the other and Raoul Loe got a consolation for Osasuna, who played for more than an hour with ten men after Alejandro Arribas was harshly sent-off after two handball incidents.

Barcelona remain 15 points ahead of Real Madrid in third position and move eleven ahead of Atletico Madrid.

Osasuna remain in the relegation zone on 18 points, two from safety.

Messi now has 33 goals for the season, 12 more than Cristiano Ronaldo, who earlier on Sunday hit a hat-trick as Real Madrid beat Getafe 4-0.

David Villa started his first league game for Barca in more than two months and former Liverpool player Javier Mascherano filled in for the suspended Gerard Pique in the centre of defence.

All Real's goals came in a much better second half performance in the derby against Getafe.

It took until 52 minutes for Madrid to find a breakthrough when Sergio Ramos stabbed home from a corner.

Then Ronaldo hit three in ten minutes, his first on 62 minutes after a sweeping counter-attack saw Mesut Ozil play the Portuguese star into space on the left for a crisp finish.

Three minutes later and from similar counter-attacking play he finished off a Gonzalo Higuain cross with a simple header and completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot on after Alberto Lopo had fouled Luka Modric.

Also on Sunday, Rayo Vallecano beat Real Betis 3-0 to move into fifth, a place and a point behind the Seville-based side and a Champions League position.

Piti got the South Madrid side off to a great start from the penalty spot on four minutes before Andrija Delibasic and Jose Carlos added second-half goals to make it five wins in six for Rayo.

Football: Africa Cup of Nations

Morocco's defender Ahmed Kantari (L) vies with South Africa's forward Katlego Mphela.

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Hosts South Africa and debutants Cape Verde joined title favourites Ivory Coast in the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals after a dramatic Group A climax Sunday.

Bafana Bafana (The Boys) owed a 2-2 draw with Morocco in Durban to several superb saves by goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune and a never-say-die spirit as they came from behind twice to reach the last eight for the first time in 11 years.

Issam El Adoui and substitute Abdelilah Hafidi put the Atlas Lions ahead early in the first half and late in the second at a packed Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban, but May Mahlangu and Siyabonga Sangweni scored to salvage a point.

"We feel very, very proud to have achieved our first objective. I must thank the players and the fans," said South Africa coach Gordon Igesund, who had only five months and seven matches to prepare for this tournament.

Rival coach Rachid Taoussi

said: "I am very disappointed with the result, but we fought with dignity and honour. I am satisfied as we did not lose a game and the tournament was a positive one for me."

Cape Verde, who eliminated four-time champions Cameroon en route to a first appearance at the African football showcase, beat Angola 2-1 at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Port Elizabeth to continue a fairy-tale run.

Angola led at half-time after Cape Verde captain Nando conceded an own goal and Fernando Varela levelled nine minutes from time to set up a thrilling finish in the first Africa Cup clash between two Portuguese-speaking nations.

Heldon netted the winner a minute into stoppage time, slamming a rebound into the net after Angola goalkeeper Lama found a shot too hot to handle and could only push it into the parth of the Portugal-based striker.

"My team and I dedicate this victory to the wonderful people of the Cape Verde Is-

Angola's forward Djalma Campos fights for the ball with Cape Verde's defender Gege (L)

lands," said coach Luis Antunes. "Our objective at this tournament has been achieved. We wanted to reach the quarter-finals."

Angola coach Gustavo Ferrin said the first goal his team conceded proved decisive: "We had no option then but to attack in search of a winner and left ourselves open at the back."

South Africa and Cape Verde collected five points each from one win and two draws apiece in the mini-league first phase of the 23-day tournament with the hosts topping the table on goal difference.

Morocco, making a fourth consecutive first round exit since coming second behind 2004 hosts Tunisia, ended with three points from three draws and Angola gained a solitary point after a draw and two losses.

Ivory Coast, favourites for the fifth Cup of Nations in a row but seeking a first title since 1992, were the first team into the quarter-finals after a couple of late goals completed a 3-0 win over Tunisia Saturday.

Among the teams hoping to

join them in the round of eight are defending champions Zambia, who trail shock Group C pacesetters Burkina Faso going into a final-round clash between the nations in Nelspruit Tuesday.

Finishing top of Group A means South Africa stay in Durban for a February 2 fixture against the Group B runners-up, probably Mali or the Democratic Republic of Congo. Cape Verde remain in Port Elizabeth to face the Group B winners -- most likely four-time champions Ghana -- earlier the same day while Ivory Coast confront the Group C runners-up in Rustenburg 24 hours later.



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NBA: Parker leads Spurs to eighth straight win

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - Tony Parker scored 11 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter Saturday to lift the San Antonio Spurs to an eighth straight NBA victory, 108-99 over the Phoenix Suns.

Manu Ginobili added 20 points off the bench for San Antonio, and Tiago Splitter contributed 13 points and eight rebounds for the Spurs, who again managed just fine without Tim Duncan who is nursing a sore left knee.

The Spurs were also without coach Gregg Popovich on the sideline as he missed a third straight game because of illness.

The Suns jumped out to a quick lead, although San Antonio had knotted the score at 26-26 after the first quarter.

Phoenix got strong scoring performances by Michael Beasley -- who had 25 points on 11-of-16 shooting -- and Jared Dudley, who shot 10-of-12 from the field and scored 23.

The visitors led by as many as five in the third quarter, but Ginobili made two free throws in the waning seconds to trim the Suns' lead to one point going into the fourth.

But Parker poured it on in the final period. In addition to his 11 points he handed out five assists and grabbed four rebounds in the frame. He scored seven in a row in a 10-0 Spurs scoring spurt as San Antonio extended their home winning streak to 16 games and improved to 36-11 overall.

NBA: Batum posts triple-double as Blazers down Clippers



PORTLAND (AFP) - Portland forward Nicolas Batum notched the second triple-double of his NBA career Saturday to lead the Trail Blazers to a 101-100 victory over the slumping Los Angeles Clippers.

The Blazers handed the injury-hit Clippers their fourth straight defeat, matching Los Angeles' worst skid of the season.

The Clippers were clearly feeling the continued absence of Chris Paul, who missed a

third successive contest with a bruised right kneecap. He has missed a total of six games this campaign with the same injury.

Portland's French import Batum, who posted his first career triple-double in a loss to Washington on Monday, had 20 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds.

Damian Lillard scored another 20 points for the Trail Blazers, who have won two straight after a six-game slide.

The Clippers, who had won 24 of 27 contests before their current slump, appeared to have turned the tide when a Lamar Odom dunk gave them a 100-91 lead with 2:38 remaining.

But Portland, who have won two straight after a six-game losing streak, closed out the contest with 10 unanswered points.

"We've got to learn from it," Del Negro said. "It's a tough pill to swallow. We had an opportunity to steal this one, and we couldn't convert down the stretch."

Jamal Crawford had a last chance to get the win for Los Angeles, but his jump shot over Batum bounced off the rim.

Baseball: A-Rod could miss entire 2013 season - Yankees



NEW YORK (AFP) - New York Yankees star third baseman Alex Rodriguez could miss the entire 2013 Major League Baseball season as he recovers from left hip surgery, team general manager Brian Cashman said.

Cashman told radio station WFAN that he is confident that Rodriguez, 37, will meet his projected six-month timetable for returning to the Yankees' lineup but admitted a worst-case scenario was possible as well.

Rodriguez, a three-time

American League Most Valuable Player, underwent an arthroscopic procedure last week.

The Yankees said "A-Rod" would likely be sidelined until the All-Star Game in mid-July, but Cashman warned that Rodriguez's just-underway rehabilitation would likely dictate when he could return.

Rodriguez will "do everything in his power to put himself in the position to get back and be healthy and productive," Cashman said.

Rodriguez batted .272 with 18 home runs and 57 runs batted in over 122 games last season. The Yankees signed a one-year deal last month with Kevin Youkilis, a one-time standout for arch-rival Boston, to handle third-base duties until Rodriguez is healthy enough to return.

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Football - Bundesliga: Bayern win in Stuttgart to extend lead, set record



Mario Mandzukic: Scored one and set one up in Bayern Munich win

BERLIN (AFP) - Bayern Munich went 11 points clear at the top of the Bundesliga table on Sunday with a 2-0 win in the south German derby at ten-man VfB Stuttgart and set a new record in the process.

The clean sheet in Stuttgart means Bayern have conceded just seven goals after 19 Bundesliga games, a new German league record -- they also extended their lead at the top of the table to 11 points over Bayer Leverkusen.

Leverkusen were held to a goalless draw at Freiburg on Saturday.

Croatia striker Mario Mandzukic showed again why Germany striker Mario Gomez has to make do warming Bayern's bench by scoring the opening goal, then setting up Thomas Mueller for the second to make sure of the three points.

Munich went ahead after a horror back-pass from Stuttgart defender Cristian Molinaro allowed Mandzukic to round the hosts' goalkeeper Sven Ulreich and fire into an empty net on 50 minutes.

Stuttgart were lucky to escape conceding a penalty when centre-back Georg Niedermeier brought down Munich's Toni Kroos in the area, but when referee Florian Meyer waved play on, Kroos' furious protest earned him a booking.

Mandzukic made sure of the three points when he played in

a superb cross for Mueller to slot past Ulreich after getting to the ball just ahead of his marker Serdar Tasci on 72 minutes.

Stuttgart had Martin Harnik sent off for the last 10 minutes after frustration got the better of the Austria star who clattered into Franck Ribery's ankle after the ball had gone and he was shown a second yellow.

Earlier, Hamburg won the north German Bundesliga derby with a 3-2 victory at home as Werder Bremen finished with nine men. South Korea striker Son Heung-Min scored a great goal for the hosts.

Werder were reduced to nine men after both captain Clemens Fritz and Austria bad-boy striker Marko Arnautovic were shown second yellow cards.

Fourth-placed Eintracht Frankfurt stayed in the chasing pack with a 2-1 home win over Hoffenheim, who dropped to second from bottom.

With speculation rife over whether Germany midfielder Lewis Holtby will join Tottenham Hotspur before January's transfer window closes, his Schalke 04 side were held to a goalless draw at relegation-candidates Augsburg.

Holtby, whose contract ends in June, will join Spurs for next season and, although the North London club want to sign him sooner, Schalke have rejected all their offers for the 22-year-old so far.

Schalke have won just once in eight games and drop to sixth, while the hosts moved up to 16th.

Mainz moved up to fifth with a workmanlike 3-0 win at bottom side Greuther Fuerth as

former Real Madrid striker Adam Szalai scored twice.

Borussia Moenchengladbach enjoyed a 2-1 win at home to Fortuna Duesseldorf to claim seventh place.

Despite having defender Se-

bastien Pocognoli sent off for a dangerous foul just 34 minutes into his Bundesliga debut after joining from Standard Liege last week, 10-man Hanover 96 claimed a 2-1 victory over Wolfsburg.



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